

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL / 2018 BUDGET HEARINGS / BUDGET CUTS  
AUGUST 23, 2017**

The Jasper County Council met this date at 8:30 A.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein Bontreger, Stephen Jordan, Gerrit H. DeVries, Andrew Andree, Gary Fritts, Paul Norwine and Brett Risner. Also present was Auditor Kimberly K. Grow and Deputy Auditor Tina Porter. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order.

SUPERIOR COURT BUDGET: Theresa Lakin and Judge Hall presented the Superior Court budget. Judge Hall stated that there are no changes in the budget except for a salary increase request. He said they are currently down one employee, but will try to get by until the new judge is appointed. He informed the Council that they will be needing two interpreters. He will have more details next Wednesday. Mr. Norwine asked Mrs. Lakin if the open position is the one that Judge Ahler had requested. She replied that he is correct. She was the first Court Reporter replacement hired last July. Mr. Bontreger asked if the second Court Reporter has the skills to keep up and Judge Hall replied that they are working on it. Mrs. Lakin stated that, in regards to the interpreters needed, they have used Language Line in the past but it's not an ideal situation. The requests for Supplemental Adult Probation, User Fee and Extradition have remained the same. Mrs. Lakin stated that the costs for Extradition have gone up.

CIRCUIT COURT BUDGET CONT'D: Judge Potter was present to answer questions. The contract for the West Law books that Judge Ahler signed expires in March. Judge Potter prefers Lexis Nexis, who is a competitor of West Law. They would be able to get those books at a discount if the new judge approves of using Lexis Nexis, thereby saving approximately \$20,000.00. He explained that the West Law contract was supposed to be a term of five years, but Judge Ahler had not signed it before leaving and Judge Potter told the West Law representative that he was not interested in signing. He hopes to be able to figure the CASA grant money in to the budget and use it towards some of the CASA expenses. Judge Potter stated that, for compensatory time, his weighted case load is 1.31 and Superior's is 0.85. He said that he paid for Judge Ahler's Court Reporter for three months. Paying compensatory time is the best solution for the time being and is cheaper than hiring another employee. The requests for Juvenile Probation have remained the same.

At the conclusion of the budget hearings, Tina Porter left the meeting and Linda Armstrong joined. The Council then discussed budget cuts.

There being no further business, Mr. Fritts made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

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Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County